



United States Environmental Protection Agency Organization Assessment of Performance

1. Organization: U.S. EPA, Region 6 2. Fiscal Year: 2017

3. Key Events/Issues/Challenges and Management Actions

- **San Jacinto Dioxin Pits – 1st over \$50M ROD, TX** – R6 finalized site remediation plans, responded to public comments, and engaged EPA senior leadership to allow the Administrator to select the final remedy.
- **Hurricane Harvey Response** – R6 responded to Hurricane Harvey and assisted the State of Texas with emergency responses, aerial reconnaissance, orphan container collection and disposal, along with coordinated oversight of debris management and dissemination of information to city and county disaster recovery centers. R6 also completed inspection and sampling of 43 NPL sites in federally declared counties on an expedited schedule.
- **Tar Creek Site \$15M Settlement and Tribal Capacity Building, OK** – EPA signed a consent decree worth over \$15M with PRPs to continue cleanup work. Also, R6 engaged Senior Leadership from the Administrator's office, and Quapaw Tribal leadership, supporting the tribal lead construction at the Site. Over 1 million tons of waste has been remediated to date. R6 helped the Tribe build capacity, enabling work to proceed smoothly. After gaining this experience, the Quapaw Tribe is now mentoring Laguna Pueblo of New Mexico.
- **Donna Canal Site, TX** – R6 conducted a fish removal project to eliminate direct risk to people from consumption of fish contaminated with PCBs. R6 also conducted a robust public outreach to educate the surrounding community on the site hazards.
- **Wilcox Oil Refinery, OK** – R6 took an early action to remove wastes discovered during the site investigation from a residential property that addressed risks to the public, prior to completion of the long-term actions.
- **Corpus Christi Public Water Supply Response, TX** – R6 quickly assembled a team of experts including the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and worked with the State of Texas to provide a timely response to the Corpus Christi drinking water supply threat. EPA's efforts help identify the parties involved in the release of contaminants. The Region's quick response ensured 320,000 residents had safe drinking water.
- **Camp Minden, LA** – R6 partnered with the State of Louisiana and used an innovative Contained Burn System at Camp Minden, LA to safely complete destruction of about 16 million pounds of unstable propellants. This action was performed with the support of the community, elected officials and the U.S. Army.
- **Lindy Boggs/Mercy Hospital Clean-up, LA** - R6 successfully completed a \$1M clean-up of the Lindy Boggs/Mercy Hospital in New Orleans, LA under the Brownfields Program. This puts the hospital back into productive use as a nursing home, assisted living, with shops on the bottom floors for the nearby community. The site is located in a predominantly residential area so its revival provides much needed services for local community.
- **Chevron Questa Mine, NM** – EPA signed a partial consent decree for mine clean-up and oversight work worth \$143 million and past costs of \$5.2 million. This settlement, an excellent product of collaboration of State Agencies, includes substantial cleanup work and requires actions to prevent future contamination of the Red River.
- **Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine, NM** – EPA signed an Administrative Order on Consent valued at \$5M for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) with the Atlantic Richfield Co (ARCO) for Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine, located on Pueblo of Laguna lands, NM. The site was the largest open-pit uranium mine in the world. The AOC was effective on July 1, 2017, and will allow ARCO to start conducting RI/FS activities.
- **Superfund Ready for Reuse** – R6 continued to support and highlight the impact of the Superfund Brownfields program to benefit communities through economic reuse. Events were completed at Chevron Questa Eagle Rock Lake, Bayou Bonfouca Marina project, and Henriyetta, OK Health Clinic.

4. Performance Reporting

Measure area/topic	Overall status	Explanation of performance results - one line is NOT required for each measure
Removal Program	Met all targets	Successfully completed 22 removal actions and conducted 65 risk management plan inspections
Remedial Program	Met all targets	Completed 60 site assessments, proposed two sites to NPL and finalized one on NPL and completed four remedial actions

Brownfield Program	Met/Exceed all targets	Assessed over 90 brownfield properties and cleaned-up five properties leveraging over 1.2 billion dollars in development
Enforcement Program	Met/Exceed all targets	Recovered over 188 million dollars in settlements and past cost by achieving 100% goals

Strategy	Accomplishments (Cross-Agency Strategies)
Sustainability	Through the Brownfields Program, R6 provided about \$30 million to Oklahoma, Tribes, Job Training Institutions, regional and local communities/organizations through grants leading to a sustainable growth and development. These grants helped these communities in leveraging over \$1.25 billion in funding and 4,630 acres ready for reuse, putting back these parcels of lands into tax-roll. R6 national expert assisted HQs team in addressing significant comments on the proposed Subsurface Vapor Intrusion Rule for the Hazard Ranking System that was finalized this year.
Communities	Conducted multiple webinars and workshops for representatives from over 290 local emergency planning committees and over 405 communities from the Region 6 states. The webinars and workshops covered the 30 th anniversary of EPCRA, responsibilities of the LEPC, facility responsibilities under EPCRA, and Brownfield topics.
Partnership	To address abandoned uranium mines in New Mexico, EPA partnered with multiple deferral, state and tribal agencies and is achieving results. Hurricane Harvey response is another example of successful partnership with multiple partnerships internally and externally.
HPO	Increased use of collaboration tools (SharePoint) to decrease document production and review times for large documents such as the San Jacinto ROD and enforcement special notice letter package; Developed a program management tool for Superfund enforcement program in collaboration with Management Division that will help save hundreds of staff hours in future and assist staff with staying up-to-date on numerous projects.

5. Other Efficiencies, Cost-Savings, and Administrative Accomplishments

- **Lowering Indirect Cost – One of Task Force Recommendations** – R6 emphasizes on site and special account charging lowered indirect cost from 66% to 47%. This lowered overhead will help the Region in gaining better cooperation from the PRPs and in overall cost savings for future projects.
- **Hurricane Harvey Response** – R6 utilized national assets including the ASPECT aircraft, TAGA air sampling bus, and PHILIS portable lab to rapidly analyze and provide environmental sampling information to the state of Texas. As a result, the Unified Command completed mission assigned activities and transitioned remaining activities to the State/local authorities within weeks of landfall and minimized the cost share amount for Texas.
- **Region Collects Over \$188M in Settlements Saving Tax Dollars** - R6 worked with numerous stakeholders to complete over \$188M in settlements. These funds are used to conduct cleanup work resulting in a savings of same amount from tax dollars for the affected communities.
- **Pawhuska High School Response, OK** - R6 used its convening power to bring together State, Tribal and local authorities to identify and mitigate a release of natural gas at the Pawhuska High School grounds in Oklahoma. EPA facilitated distribution of work and completion of tasks among the agencies to ensure the school was safe for students in a record time that assisted administrators to begin school.
- **Saving State over \$220K** - The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) requested that EPA plug an abandoned oil well on an island in a state scenic river. The state could not afford to perform the work but had obtained the required permits to plug the well. This work saved the state over \$220,000 in plugging costs and protected a state wildlife management area.
- **Collaboration with General Counsel of Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality** – EPA initiated a collaborated effort with ODEQ's General Counsel in conjunction with EPA's Regional Counsel to expedite Potentially Responsible Party searches and cost recovery activities. These meetings resulted in strengthening the working relationship and efficiently addressing enforcement issues.
- **Superfund Contract Coordination with Region 5 & Virtual Team** - Two superfund contracts, START and Hurricane Harvey response, were awarded in FY17 for a total of \$74 million, through a partnership with Region 5 and the contract virtual team. This save time, maximized staff utilization and created an overall efficiency for the Hurricane Harvey response work.